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STATE AND CITY OFFICIALS CELEBRATE PARK GRANT

McLaughlin Playground in Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood to receive \$200,000

Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder today joined state legislators and officials from the City of Boston to celebrate the awarding of a \$200,000 state Urban Self Help (USH) grant that will be used to upgrade and modernize McLaughlin Playground in the Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston.

"One of the best ways to improve quality of life in Massachusetts is to help urban communities restore and maintain their recreation facilities," said Secretary Roy Herzfelder. "I am excited to be a part of making McLaughlin Playground an expanded and safer part of the Mission Hill neighborhood."

This grant advances the Governor Romney's Smart Growth initiative by making significant investments in outdoor recreational facilities where improvements are most needed. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Urban Self-Help Program assists cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. These funds have been approved through the Urban Self-Help Program and will be underwritten from the federal Land & Water Conservation Grant Program.

"This grant will help bridge the funding gaps we face in park restoration and allow us to provide Mission Hill with a fully renovated park for all ages," said Antonia Pollak, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Boston.

The McLaughlin Playground is a multi-purpose recreation facility owned and operated by the City of Boston in the city's Mission Hill section that features softball and baseball fields, basketball courts, play structures for children and spectacular city views. The space is widely utilized by a variety of users and an essential part of the community.

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“This park's partnership with the Commonwealth represents a major milestone in advancing the Menino Administration's commitment to improving the environmental health and quality of life in our neighborhoods,” said James W. Hunt, III, Chief of Environmental and Energy Services for the City of Boston.

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